



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan A. Scheff
Acting Deputy Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 4, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Morna A. Murray, J.D., Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding [S.B. No. 918](#) **AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

Having worked as an advocate in the field of developmental disabilities prior to recently being appointed to lead DDS, I fully appreciate the intent of [S.B. No. 918](#); however, creating an array of entitlement services for persons with intellectual disability, for now and for the foreseeable future, is an extremely complicated and astronomically expensive task.

I have had the recent opportunity as the Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA), and now as the Commissioner of DDS, to serve on Governor Malloy's [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Working Group](#), comprised of numerous stakeholders, which is currently in the process of preparing to make recommendations regarding ways to address the DDS Waiting List. In this role, I have had the chance to participate in many presentations and discussions and I can assure you that the Working Group has an enormously difficult responsibility ahead of it.

In reviewing last year's Office of Fiscal Analysis' [Fiscal Note for H.B. No. 5534](#), which proposed the same concepts and language as is contained in [S.B. No. 918](#), the first fiscal year cost to DDS was estimated at more than \$89 million and the second fiscal year cost to DDS at more than \$181 million. DDS understands that, however well-intended this year's bill is, its costs are not supported within the Governor's proposed budget for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and therefore, we cannot support it.

That being said, I think that Connecticut has attained some incredible momentum in the past few years as various stakeholders, many at the grass roots level, have made the issues impacting persons with intellectual disability better known across the state. For example, the creation of the legislative Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Caucus is a testament to the commitment of so many of you to take a fresh look at how important services are provided in

Connecticut in an effort to improve these services' delivery. Not only do I thank you for this important work, I commit to partnering with all of you to build on this momentum and look for new and creative ways to make our limited resources go farther. Citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Connecticut deserve no less.

Connecticut's DDS is not alone in looking for solutions to these complex issues. Nationally, there is much guidance from the federal government about how services should be designed to ensure that they are person-centered and community-based. Finding ways to be more responsive to the important needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families is a common goal we share. Together, we have a responsibility to come up with workable solutions, while balancing many equally important competing and compelling needs. I look forward to embarking on this challenge with each of you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony on [S.B. No. 918](#). Please contact Christine Pollio Cooney, DDS Director of Legislative and Executive Affairs at (860) 418-6066, if you have any questions.